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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 198475 TOSEC 200294

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S:PSEBASTIAN
APPROVED BY: S/S:PSEBASTIAN
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P 102201Z AUG 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 198475 TOSEC 200294

NODIS
CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 4167 ACTION SECSTATE 10 AUG 1976

QUOTE S E C R E T AMMAN 4167

NODIS/CHEROKEE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR JO US SY XF
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN-AREA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 192800(TOSEC 2000001)

1. THIS TELEGRAM SUMMARIZES TWO HOUR MEETING WHICH I HAD WITH KING HUSSEIN FOLLOWING HIS RETURN AFTERNOON AUGUST 10 FROM TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE GULF. KING WAS IN TOUCH WITH ME AND ASKED ME TO SEE HIM RIGHT AWAY. EARLIER I HAD RUN OVER WITH CROWN PRINCE IN VERY GENERAL TERMS BASIC ELEMENT MY TALKING POINTS

2. WHEN I SAW KING I GAVE HIM ROUGH OUTLINE THOSE POINTS STILL GERMANE IN REFTEL WHICH HAD ARRIVED IN AMMAN AFTER
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PAGE 02 STATE 198475 TOSEC 200294

MY DEPARTURE FOR TEHRAN. I THEN DISCUSSED WITH KING

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

MY TALKING POINTS READING FROM NOTES VERBATIM
TO INSURE HIS FULL COMPREHENSION.

3. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT AMBASSADOR MURPHY WOULD BE
SEEING ASAD DIRECTLY TO CHECK WITH ASAD VARIOUS REPORTS
PASSED ON TO US BY KING.

4. KING SAID HE AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSEMENT OF THE
SITUATION AS CONTAINED IN MY TALKING POINTS. HE SAID HE
ASSUMED WHEN I TALKED ABOUT PLO IN
TALKING POINTS AND THEIR FUTURE ROLE THAT US WAS NOT
FIXED UPON PRESENT LEADERSHIP. I TOLD HIM WE WERE NOT
AND SAW ADVANTAGES IN WEAKENING PRESENT LEADERSHIP
NOW TAKING PLACE IN LEBANON.

5. KING REINFORCED FOR ME FOLLOWING POINTS IN HIS OWN
ASSESSMENT WHICH HE SAID HE HAD USED WITH SAUDI AND
GULF LEADERS--SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE DISASTER FOR
SYRIA AND ASAD AND ALSO HAND TERRITORY IN LEBANON TO
PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE LEFT, ANY
CHANCE OF GOVERNMENT IN SYRIA WOULD
BE FORSE FOR OUR INTEREST,"RED CRESCENT" IF ESTABLISHED
MIGHT WELL NEXT ENGULF KUWAIT, AND KING SAID HE JUST COULD NOT
UNDERSTAND WHY EGYPT FAILED TO APPRECIATE FULL CONSE-
QUENCES OF ITS ACTION IN SUPPORTING PLO AND LEFTISTS
IN LEBANON.

6. KING THEN TURNED TO HIS SAUDI AND GULF TRIP. HE
SAID SAUDIS NOW SEEMED MORE UNDERSTANDING OF SYRIAN
ROLE AND HAD REACTED BADLY TO SADAT'S RECENT PUBLIC
CRITICISM OF THEM FOR BEING TOO PARSIMONIOUS WITH EGYPT.

7. KING SAID MOOD IN KUWAIT WAS BETTER AND THAT KUWATIS
SEEMED CONCERNED ABOUT PALESTINIAN AND IRAQI
PROBLEMS IN THEIR AREA.

8. KING THEN CATALOGUED FOR ME SOME OF HIS RECENT
PROBLEMS WITH AND REACTIONS TO EGYPT WHICH I WILL
REPORT IN SOME DETAIL SUBSEQUENTLY.

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9. KING THEN ASKED ME TO COME INTO HIS STUDY AND PUT
THROUGH A CALL TO PRESIDENT ASAD. HALF HOUR CONVERSATION
THEN ENSURED WITH ASAD.

10. PRINCIPAL POINTS OF INTEREST WERE THAT ASAD SAID
HE HAD MET WITH AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND HAD RECEIVED A
MESSAGE FROM US WITH A NUMBER OF POSITIVE POINTS. ASAD SAID
ACCORDING TO THE KING THAT HE HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

THE MEETING. KING THEN SAID THERE HAD BEEN ONE CURIOUS
POINT. ASAD SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED BY MURPHY IF EVERY
THING WHICH KING HUSSEIN SAID TO US ON BEHALF OF SYRIA WAS
TO BE ACCEPTED AS COMING FROM ASAD. ASAD TOLD KING THAT HE
HAD REPLIED THAT EVERYTHING KING HUSSEIN PASSED ON WAS REFLECTIVE
OF THE CLOSE CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO
AND WHETHER IT CAME FROM AMMAN OR DAMASCUS, THE US SHOULD
TAKE AS BEING DIRECT FROM ASAD. KING THEN SAID HE TOLD ASAD THAT
HE WAS SURE THE AMERICANS WANTED CLOSER DIRECT CONTACT
WITH HIM(ASAD) HE SAID HE TOLD ASAD HE THOUGHT THIS
WAS A GOOD IDEA AND THAT BOTH CHANNELS TO US (JORDAN
AND SYRIA) SHOULD BE USED.

11. I TOLD THE KING THAT THIS POINT HAD BEEN WHAT I
WAS REFERRING TO IN OUR EARLIER CONVERSATION AND HE SAID
HE KNOW THAT RIGHT AWAY AND HAD FELT IT USEFUL TO MAKE
IT CLEAR TO ASAD THAT HE SHOULD BE IN CLOSER DIRECT
TOUCH WITH THE US.

12. VERY BRIEFLY, ASAD TOLD KING THAT HE WAS HAVING A
GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE WITH EXPLOSIONS IN SYRIA, THAT
JUMBLATT WAS INSISTING ON PARTICIPATING IN HIGH LEVEL
SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN-LEBANESE COMMITTEE TO WORK OUT THE
CEASEFURE AS THE ONLY LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
LEFT THAT THE SHIITE IMAN, MUSA SADR WAS UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AND
THAT ASAD HAS ASKED THE CHRISTIAN RIGHTISTS TO RELAX
THEIR OVER ACTIVITIES IN COOPERATION WITH THE SHIITES
TO REDUCE THE PRESSURE ON THE LATTER AND FINALLY THAT
ASAD HIMSELF SEEMED CHEERFUL
AND IN QUITE A GOOD MOOD AND HAS SAID THAT ASIDE
FROM THE ABOVE POINTS THERE WAS NOTHING REALLY
NEW ON LEBANESE SITUATION.

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13. KING HAD TOLD ME EARLIER THAT HE WILL BE FLYING
BRIEFLY TO IRAN AUGUST 11 ON PLANE TO BRING TO AMMAN
EX-KING CONSTANTINE WHO IS NOW VISITING IRAN. HE HOPES
TO HAVE A FEW HOURS TO BRIEF THE SHAH ON HIS TRIP
AND TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

14. SEPTEL WILL FOLLOW WITH MORE DETAILS.

15. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT CAIRO AND DAMASCUS.
PICKERING UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/10/76, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE198475
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:PSEBASTIAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760006-0243
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760867/aaaacgny.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 192800
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TALK WITH KING HUSSEIN-AREA DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, SY, XF, PLO, (HUSSEIN I), (ASAD, HAFIZ)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006